

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W

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R 260220Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 878

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11581

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 2162 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI
INFO CALCUTTA/MADRAS. DTD 25 AUG 75.

QUOTE:

BOMBAY 2162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJ: RANGNEKAR ON PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT

1. DURING AUG 23 DINNER AT HOME OF DPO, ECONOMIC TIMES EDITOR D.K. RANGNEKAR ASKED DPO "PURELY OFF THE RECORD" FOR REASONS WHY PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP TO INDIA HAD BEEN CANCELLED. DPO REPLIED THAT VISIT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN "CANCELLED" SINCE NO DATE HAD EVER BEEN SET. AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT, DPO SAID, INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, WITH DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT LATER. PRESIDENT APPARENTLY VERY BUSY AT THIS TIME AND UNABLE FIT IN VISIT TO INDIA. WE PLAN FOLLOW UP BY SENDING RANGNEKAR MATERIALS REGARDING VISIT CARRIED IN AUG 13 WIRELESS FILE.

2. RANGNEKAR REPLIED CHAVAN HAD TOLD HIM DURING A VISIT TO DELHI ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO THAT VISIT "HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF INTERNAL SITUATION IN INDIA." ACCORDING RANGNEKAR, CHAVAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT CANCELLATION OF VISIT AT THIS TIME PROBABLY WOULD

NOT BE SO DAMAGING SINCE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS APPEAR TO BE ON
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THE UPSWING.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, BOMBAY ARCHITECT CHARLES M. CORREA, STATED HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED OVER CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT UNTIL HE THOUGHT THE QUESTION THROUGH ENTIRELY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD FOR INDIA TO HAVE A PLANELOAD OF U.S. NEWSMEN COMING INTO THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME, AND IN THIS REGARD IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF THE TRIP WERE POSTPONED.
BANE

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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NNN

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